



BUDGET COMMITTEE



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Senator Gregg: Reconciliation Point of Order Discussions Should Not Be Put Off

*Senate Majority's Reluctance to Meet on Social Security Issue
Indicates They are Waiting Until House Votes on Massive Health Care Bill*

Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH), ranking member of the Senate Budget Committee, today commented on Senate Democrats' reluctance to meet prior to the House vote with Senate Republicans and the Senate Parliamentarian on a Social Security issue that could bring down the health care reconciliation bill in the Senate.

"Immediately after receiving the final reconciliation bill language, Senate Republican staff was ready and willing to meet with Senate Democratic staff and the Senate Parliamentarian to discuss the fact that the House reconciliation bill may be brought down by the 310(g) point of order in the Senate. Senate Democrats are mysteriously unavailable until after the House votes on the health care bill tonight. The Senate Democrats appear to be pushing off this meeting so that House Democrats will remain in the dark about what is likely to happen to the reconciliation bill on which many have staked their careers in Congress. House Democrats should be alarmed by this latest development, since the survival of the reconciliation bill is clearly at risk in the Senate."

The reconciliation bill is likely to be subject to a 310(g) point of order under the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. If that 310(g) point of order is upheld – 60 votes are needed to waive it, and all 41 Senate Republicans have pledged to uphold all points of order against the reconciliation bill – then the bill will be brought down.